



Newport Minster

Impact report

In a period where much of the country has been shut down, Newport Minster has been active and successful in finally moving to the endgame for our restoration and refurbishment project.

This dusty, old building is turning into a place of worship and civic asset that is fit for this century. It is finally becoming a warm and inviting venue that the whole Island can be proud of and benefit from.



Crafts, Conservation & Cash ...

As the exterior has been swathed in scaffolding, craftsmen have been working hard to conserve and restore: 24 pieces of Bath and Caen stone - weighing half a tonne - have been carved; three miles (4.8km) of cement grouting painstakingly removed and replaced with lime mortar; and 4000 Welsh slate tiles nailed to the roof, along with a tonne of wooden battens and roofing felt. It is the culmination of a decade long battle by The Friends of Newport Minster to save this Island landmark.



Without the grants from the Heritage Lottery and Historic England, through the National Churches Trust, and the significant, generous, additional funding given by Mr and Mrs Urs and Francesca Schwarzenbach, we would not be in touching distance of refurbishing this Island landmark.

And there is more...

Time lapse footage now available on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/p/CcH-AzpozBK/?igshid=MDJmNzVkMjY=>) shows the process of conservation cleaning our monuments to Princess Elizabeth and Sir Edward Horsey. Each piece boasts different types of alabaster and marble. Conservators have even tackled Sir Edwards 'fake' plaster hands, which unaccountably replaced the originals at some point in the last five hundred years.



Working with the local County Records Office, we have trained six new archivists who will contribute to the new interpretation plans.

A new, free programme of talks encourages people (and we hope will inspire Island students) to **Meet the Experts** is underway. It is a unique chance to see the work completed by stonemasons, conservators, our architect and other skilled professionals working on the project and even to try a hand at some skills. Those with a head for heights have been on the roof, inspected stone carving and seen lead work.



The Minster has been accepted into the network of Major UK Churches and, by July 2022, we can now, finally, ask for the building to be removed from the Historic England *Heritage At Risk Register*.

All of this means the survival of the central building in the Island Ministry, official home to the Archdeacon, as well as our Island's civic church, but it is sharing knowledge and inspiring the next generation to learn new skills in important crafts.

The Minster aims to serve the whole community and therefore deserves to be a building that can fulfil its great promise, be a place for performance and exhibition, as well as a place of worship.

Fit for the Future

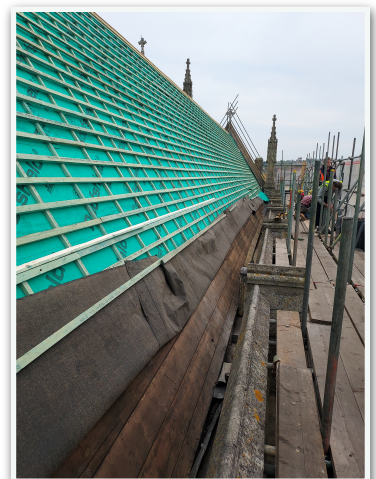
Once the roof is completed, the real work of transforming the interior of the building will start. In opening up the inside of the Minster, we aim to create a more flexible space. It will enable parishioners to have smaller, cosier gatherings in different parts of the church, but also mean a comfortable arena for the large annual events like the Act of Remembrance and the Law Society Service. Exhibitions will be possible, along with a wider range of artistic and musical endeavours for the whole Island community.

Filming with the National Churches Trust is evidence of the success of our funding partnerships too.



We hope to add underfloor heating and solve more than a century of chills, as well as open the Minster for warm winter activities and evening services. It would enable us to explore the theatre of the space all year round and support the ever widening cultural offer of Newport and the Island.

We know our cafe has become a community hub in recent years. Modern washroom facilities and catering provision will increase the scope of this important meeting place. We also



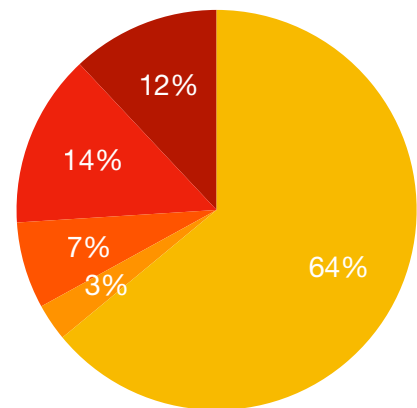
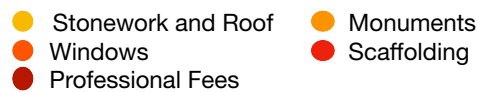
hope it will ensure even more generous donations to the food bank too.

Breaking Down Barriers

A new, additional training programme for volunteers will ensure we support those with mental health needs - we are committed to supporting those in crisis in the community - whilst a rolling plan for exhibitions and interpretation for all ages and interests, will offer new reasons to engage with the building, offering sustainable income streams as well as introducing the Minster to new and wider audiences. A gift shop selling local Island goods will also promote local crafts/craftspeople and artists enhancing long term income to support upkeep of the Minster.

Money spent on

To date the main focus has been on the exterior of the building, but the next phase will look to refurbish the interior. To complete the conservation inside, add heating, seating and a modern accessible washroom and kitchen.



In the first half of this year we have raised enough funding to purchase 46 of the 300 chairs needed for the new interior. Many of those buying chairs have taken up the chance to add their name, or that of a loved one, for a small additional fee.

Would you like to remember someone in our church? Can you help us finish the work?

For more information contact us or see our website www.newportminster.org/support/donate

Volunteers, Friends and the Final Phase

We still need you and that means finding the people who want to commit to supporting the central church at the heart of the Isle of Wight.

We can't make the building thrive for the community without members of that community joining us to help us make the place work harder for everyone. We are building partnerships with local groups and organisations, establishing events and exhibitions, setting up teams of people who will make the Minster a vibrant hub of activities year round. **Could you join our team?**

The Minster sits in the centre of Newport and the Isle of Wight and it wants to reach and support all who need it. We need **volunteers**, so if you have a few hours to spare we would love to hear from you. If you enjoy archive research, want to help in the building or you simply want to be part of the community working on The Minster, please contact us by email or phone:

campaign@newportminster.org or Tel: 01983 559257

You can also **donate** using Internet banking:

Account name is Newport Parish Church

Sort Code is 40-52-40

Account Number is 00032453

Reference is 'DF/(add your surname here)'

If you would like to send a cheque, please can you make it payable to

Newport Parish Church (Postal address Newport Minster Parish Office, Newport, PO30 1JU)

What is Gift Aid?

If you are a UK taxpayer, the Gift Aid Scheme allows Newport Minster to reclaim a further 25p on every £1 of your donation. It is a government backed tax benefit to charities and won't cost you a penny. It will really boost our income.

Please make sure you fill in your contact details and the Gift Aid section if applicable.

To add Gift Aid just click the box below.

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Home address:

Postcode:

Date:

Finally, let us know if you have made a donation (and if you would like a receipt)
campaign@newportminster.org or Tel: 01983 559257

We have achieved so much that seemed impossible and Newport Minster is nearly at the finishing line. We hope you find our report on the progress made in the last year inspiring and that you can see the value in your continued support and generosity to this worthy Island cause.

Thank you

